

As also required under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, a clean version of the Abstract of Disclosure is as follows:

ABSTRACT OF INVENTION

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A point of sale (POS) station installed within a retail shopping environment. The POS station comprises a bar code reading system installed in a counter-surface at the POS station. The bar code reading system comprises a bioptical laser scanning bar code reading unit having a bottom portion having a horizontal scanning window installable through the counter-surface, and a vertical portion operably connected with the bottom portion and having a vertical scanning window. An electronic produce scale is integrated within the bottom portion of the bioptical laser scanning bar code reading unit. A housing is connected to the vertical portion of the bioptical laser scanning bar code reading unit, defining a cashier's side of the system and a customer's side of the system. A cashier-scale terminal is integrated with the bioptical laser scanning bar code reading unit, and has a first visual display panel and a first keyboard provided on the cashier's side of the housing. A customer-kiosk terminal is integrated with the bioptical laser scanning bar code reading unit, and has with a second visual display panel and second keyboard integrated therewith provided on the customer's side of the housing. The first display panel at the cashier-scale terminal enables the cashier to enter information into the cashier-scale terminal regarding produce items to be weighed by the electronic produce scale, as well as display such information for the cashier to review. The second display panel at the customer-kiosk terminal enables the customer to view the displayed price of scanned items and the displayed weight and item-identity data of weighed items, as well as enter and display information pertaining to financial transactions being carried out in connection with the purchase of products and/or produce at the POS environment. By virtue of the present invention, the retail customer is able to view product price and weight information in an easier manner, while reviewing advertisements and promotions at times when product price and weight information are not being displayed. Also, by integrating a financial transaction terminal into the customer-kiosk terminal, it is now possible to provide an ultra-compact unit which occupies less space on retail counter-surfaces.